

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1 and 4-9 will remain pending in the above-identified application, with claims 1 and 7-9 standing ready for further action on the merits, and remaining claim 4-6 being withdrawn from consideration based on an earlier restriction requirement of the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention based on the disclosures at page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 12 of the specification and Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). New claim 9 is added based on the disclosures at page 8, line 23 to page 9, lines 3 and page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 12 of the specification and Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) so as to further clarify the features of the present invention with process limitations, which result in the structural features of the present invention.

Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits are earnestly solicited at present.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract contains two paragraphs. The objection is respectfully traversed.

The Abstract has been amended in a fashion that is submitted to obviate and overcome the present objection (*i.e.*, rewritten into one paragraph). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan US '267 (US 5,779,267) in view of Koyama JP '472 (JP 2001-171472). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested based on following consideration.

Advantages obtained by amended claim 1

In view of the amendment to the claims, the present invention is further distinguished over the cited references.

As recited in claim 1, in the present invention, the thickness of the coating layer at the intersecting parts is thicker than the remaining portion of the single metal wire (see also Fig. 3(b)). For example, the claimed filter is obtained by subjecting the claimed single metal wire, which has been wound into a tubular shape, to a heat treatment. In the heat treatment, the copper is melted then solidified so as to fix the intersecting parts of the single wire. Since wettability of melt copper to iron (*i.e.*, core wire) is relatively low, the molten copper concentrates onto a location where liquid easily centers or concentrates, such as the intersecting parts of the invention, because of surface tension. Consequently, the claimed unique structure is formed (see also new claim 9). With the claimed filter for a gas generator, the flow passage for gas, which is generated by activation of the gas generator, can be secured, and scattering of the copper coating, which can be caused by a high temperature and a high pressure of the gas, can be effectively prevented.

Jordan US '267 merely discloses that the surfaces of the core wire are entirely coated for protection of the core wire. Jordan US '267 discloses or suggests neither the claimed unique

structures nor a method to attain such structures of the present invention. Further, Jordan US '267 fails to disclose or suggest the advantageous properties of the present invention.

Similarly, the secondary reference Koyama JP '472 also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed structural features of the present invention.

Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established based on the combination of Jordan US '267 and Koyama JP '472. Likewise, there is no rationale and/or reasonable expectation of success based on the combination of the cited references, by which one skilled in the art could arrive at the present invention as claimed, since the cited references fail to disclose or suggest that the copper-coated wire is firmly fixed at intersecting parts by the thicker layer of the copper.

Based on the foregoing considerations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

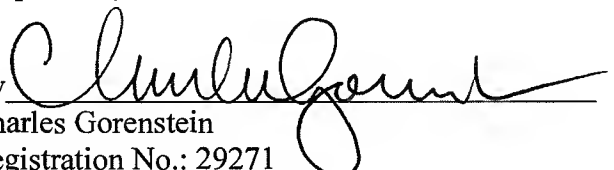
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. 68,859 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Clean copy of the amended Abstract